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EDUCATION (IRELAND).

The ANNUAL REPORT of the COMMISSIONERS of EDUCATION in *Ireland*, to His Excellency the LORD LIEUTENANT, for the Year ending the 25th day of March 1851

(*Pursuant to Act of Parliament*, 53 Geo 3, c 107)

TO HIS EXCELLENCY GEORGE WILLIAM FREDERICK EARL OF CLARENDON, LORD LIEUTENANT-GENERAL AND GENERAL GOVERNOR OF IRELAND, &c &c &c

WE, "the Commissioners of Education in Ireland," constituted and appointed by an Act of Parliament made in the 53d year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Third, do, in obedience thereunto, respectfully submit to your Excellency a General Report of the Proceedings of the Board for the year ending the 25th day of March 1851

A vacancy having occurred in the Head-Mastership of Dungannon Royal School, by the resignation of Doctor Darley, his Grace the Lord Primate, in whom the patronage is vested, selected a gentleman of the highest literary qualifications and character to preside over this School, which had, under the able superintendence of its late Master, been very numerously attended, and eminent for the subsequent success of the Pupils educated at it.

The period that would necessarily elapse before the opening of the School by the new Master, was deemed a fit opportunity to make very extensive alterations and improvements in the buildings generally, and to adapt the whole, both externally and internally, to the more modern plans of similar educational establishments, and we were accordingly induced to incur a very considerable outlay in the new arrangements In carrying out the plans approved of by us, the Primate, in his anxiety to have them completed, contributed a very liberal sum towards the necessary expenditure

A considerable delay in re-opening the School was necessarily caused by the different works, which have, however, been for some time completed, and we entertain a confident expectation that in our next Report, we shall be enabled to state that the School has maintained its character, and is as fully attended as it was during the superintendence of its former Master

The Return made to us by the Master of the Royal School of Armagh shows a large number of Pupils on the roll of attendance, and the condition of the School generally is stated to us to be very satisfactory

In consequence of the recent appointment made by your Excellency of a Master to the Royal School of Raphoe, and very pressing applications made to us by him, calling our attention to the necessity for a considerable expenditure on the buildings, we procured from our Architect a general report as to their condition We regret, however, to be obliged to report, that the funds at our disposal do not permit our carrying out all the works reported to us as being necessary, but we have made a grant of a moderate sum to be expended, under the superintendence of the Master, on such portions of the works as appear to be most urgently required And we have the satisfaction to report, that it has been stated to us that, even within the very short time that the present Master has presided over the School, an increase of Pupils has taken place in consequence of his experience and high character as a Teacher

The Masters of Cavan and Banagher Royal Schools report that during the past year the number of their Pupils has been somewhat augmented

The average attendance at the several Schools of private endowment appears to have varied but little since the last Report, and not to call for any special remark from us to your Excellency

And we have further to state, that we have from time to time, out of the funds respectively belonging to these private endowments, and under our control, caused such alterations and repairs to be executed at each School-house as seemed to us to have become necessary

We have to inform your Excellency that since our last Report we have added to our list of Royal Scholars in the University the following names, with the Annual Exhibitions respectively appearing attached to them:

F. Smith	50*l.*	per annum,	for five years
R. Gwynne	50*l.*	,,	,,
M. J. Rutherford	25*l.*	,,	,,
L. Kennedy	30*l.*	,,	,,
H. M. Rodgers	30*l.*	,,	,,
J. Ellis	30*l.*	,,	for three years

In reference to the Visitation held at Clonmel endowed School, and which was adverted to in our last Annual Report, we beg to state to your Excellency, that on a consideration of the Evidence taken thereat, and the Report made to us by the Visitors, although there appeared much cause for regret as to the manner in which that School has been conducted, the case proved and reported to us was not one which warranted us in proceeding to deprive the Master of his situation; and, we are sorry to be obliged to report, that the Master, apparently actuated by excited feelings, arising from misconceptions on his part as to matters of fact, and unsound conclusions deduced from his mistaken views, continues to publish and circulate documents which we conceive cannot contribute either to raise the character of the School or benefit that of the present Master. We have not, however, thought it right to take any steps in reference to these publications further than to make a Special Report, bearing date 29th May 1849, to your Excellency, in contradiction of the principal statements contained in some of them

On the School-house of Clonmel we have expended a moderate sum in certain repairs, which were reported to us to be essentially necessary for the preservation of the building; but the great difficulty that exists in collecting the rents forming the endowment of this School, and the necessary allowances to tenants, together with losses and considerable reduction of rents, which the condition of the country rendered imperative upon us, have prevented our being enabled to undertake all that was reported as necessary in the way of outlay on the buildings

In addition, however, to the payment of the Master's salary, viz 200*l.* per annum, we were induced at his pressing instance, to grant to him a sum of 60*l.* in part repayment of money heretofore expended by him on the School house We have also paid for him the rates and taxes on the School-house, and we have paid to the credit of the Drainage Commissioners the regular instalments on a sum of money borrowed from them for the improvement of the estate connected with this School

On our estate in the Queen's County we have recently completed a very commodious School house, with accommodation for a Master and Mistress, and a large number of male and female children; and arrangements are now in progress so as to enable us to open it in a manner calculated to be most beneficial to our tenantry in that neighbourhood

The Visitation on the Master of Tuam Diocesan School has resulted in his having returned to his sphere of duty in the town of Tuam

As regards the Diocesan Schools generally, we regret to be obliged to state that with a few exceptions they have failed to be productive of the benefits originally expected from them. This has arisen partly from the mode of payment of the Masters, which is alike distasteful to the Clergy and to the Master, and partly from the dilapidated state of many of the School houses, for the repair of which no fund, beyond a voluntary presentment by a Grand Jury, is provided by law

The difficulties which for the last few years have presented themselves to all parties in this country who derive their incomes from rents, have not failed to extend themselves to us, in our character of landlords of the various estates placed

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placed under our control, and forming the endowments of the respective Schools to which they belong.

The consideration of the Petitions for allowances and reductions of rent, which in many cases we have felt it necessary to accede to, and in some instances to a very considerable extent; the assistance given to some of the tenants to enable them to emigrate to America, together with giving to others such employment as we have been enabled to do under the superintendence of our agents, are subjects not of such a nature as to be proper to report on to your Excellency, but which have required much consideration, and occupied a very large portion of our time and attention, and which have, we regret to state, very materially diminished the funds under our control.

All which we respectfully submit to your Excellency as our Report.

(signed) MAZIERE BRADY, C. (L.S.)
FRANCIS BLACKBURNE (L.S.)
THOS. MEATH (L.S.)
FRANC. SADLEIR (L.S.)
THOS. TUAM, &c. (L.S.)
WILLIAM LIMERICK (L.S.)
JAMES CORK, &c. (L.S.)
ACHESON LYLE (L.S.)

Wm. Cotter Kyle, LL.D.
Secretary.

14 April 1851.

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EDUCATION (IRELAND)

The ANNUAL REPORT of the COMMISSIONERS of EDUCATION in *Ireland* to His Excellency the LORD LIEUTENANT, for the Year ending the 26th day of March 1861

(*Pursuant to Act of Parliament, 59 Geo. 3. c. 107.*)

Ordered by the House of Commons to be Printed,
2 June 1861.

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Under 1 oz.

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